United Nations A/RES/68/246

General Assembly

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Sixty-eighth session
Agenda item 134

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 27 December 2013

[*on the report of the Fifth Committee (A/68/689)*]

68/246. Questions relating to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 41/213 of 19 December 1986, 42/211 of 21 December 1987, 45/248 B, section VI, of 21 December 1990, 55/231 of 23 December 2000, 56/253 of 24 December 2001, 58/269 and 58/270 of 23 December 2003, 59/276, section XI, of 23 December 2004, 60/283 of 7 July 2006, 61/263 of 4 April 2007, 62/236 of 22 December 2007, 63/262 of 24 December 2008, 64/243 of 24 December 2009, 65/259 of 24 December 2010, 66/246 and 66/247 of 24 December 2011, 66/258 of 9 April 2012 and 67/248 of 24 December 2012,

Reaffirming also the respective mandates of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Committee for Programme and Coordination in the consideration of the proposed programme budget,

Reaffirming further the role of the General Assembly, through the Fifth Committee, in carrying out a thorough analysis and approval of posts and financial resources, as well as of human resources,

Having considered the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015,[1] the eighth progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of projects financed from the Development Account,[2] the report of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee on internal oversight: proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015,[3] the report of the Secretary-General on consultations on consolidating the secretariat of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination at United Nations Headquarters in New York,[4] the fifth progress

[1] A/68/6 (Introduction), (Sects. 1–3), (Sect. 4) and Corr.1, (Sect. 5) and Corr.1, (Sect. 6) and Corr.1, (Sect. 7) and Corr.1, (Sects. 8–12), (Sect. 13) and Add.1, (Sect. 14), (Sect. 15) and Corr.1, (Sects. 16–21), (Sect. 22) and Corr.1, (Sects. 23–25), (Sect. 26) and Corr.1, (Sect. 27) and Corr.1, (Sects. 28 and 29), (Sects. 29A–G), (Sect. 29H) and Corr.1 and (Sects. 30–36) and (Income sects. 1–3).

[2] A/68/92.

[3] A/68/86 and Corr.1.

[4] A/68/214.

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report of the Secretary-General on the enterprise resource planning project,[5] the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the second annual progress report of the Board of Auditors on the implementation of the United Nations enterprise resource planning system,[6] the letters dated 22 October and 12 November 2013 from the President of the General Assembly to the Chair of the Fifth Committee transmitting the letters dated 18 October and 11 November 2013 from the Secretary-General to the President of the General Assembly,[7] the report of the Secretary-General on limited budgetary discretion[8] and the related reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[9]

Having also considered chapter II, section A, of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on its fifty-third session[10] and the consolidated report of the Secretary-General on the changes to the biennial programme plan as reflected in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015,[11]

Having further considered the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the review of enterprise resource planning systems in United Nations organizations[12] and the note by the Secretary-General transmitting his comments and those of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination thereon,[13]

1. *Reaffirms* that the Fifth Committee is the appropriate Main Committee of the General Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters, and reaffirms the role of the Fifth Committee in carrying out a thorough analysis and approving human and financial resources and policies, with a view to ensuring full, effective and efficient implementation of all mandated programmes and activities and the implementation of policies in this regard;

2. *Also reaffirms* rule 153 of its rules of procedure;

3. *Further reaffirms* the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation;[14]

4. *Reaffirms* the established budgetary procedures and methodologies, based on its resolutions 41/213 and 42/211;

5. *Also reaffirms* that no changes to the budget methodology, to the established budgetary procedures and practices or to the financial regulations may be implemented without prior review and approval by the General Assembly, in accordance with established budgetary procedures;

6. *Reiterates* the need for Member States to participate fully in the budget preparation process, from its early stages and throughout the process;

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[5] A/68/375 and Add.1.

[6] A/68/151.

[7] A/C.5/68/10 and A/C.5/68/13.

[8] A/68/490.

[9] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 7* (A/68/7), A/68/7/Add.7, A/68/7/Add.9 and A/68/507.

[10] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/68/16).

[11] A/68/75.

[12] A/68/344.

[13] A/68/344/Add.1.

[14] ST/SGB/2000/8.

7. *Emphasizes* the importance of providing the consistent and timely information necessary to enable Member States to make well-informed decisions;

8. *Stresses* that all Member States should fulfil their financial obligations as set out in the Charter of the United Nations on time, in full and without conditions;

9. *Recalls* paragraph 7 of section X of its resolution 67/246 of 24 December 2012, and reaffirms the need for a comprehensive and satisfactory solution to the problem of controlling the effects of inflation and currency fluctuations on the budget of the United Nations;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to commission an independent study on recosting and options for the Organization in dealing with fluctuations in exchange rates and inflation, drawing, inter alia, on the experience of other international organizations, and to report thereon to the General Assembly through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions at the main part of its sixty-ninth session;

11. *Decides* that a vacancy rate of 8.75 per cent for Professional staff and 6.4 per cent for General Service staff shall be used as a basis for the calculation of the budget for the biennium 2014–2015;

12. *Reiterates* the priorities of the Organization for the biennium 2014–2015, as outlined in General Assembly resolution 67/248;

13. *Notes with concern* the late issuance of the first report of the Advisory Committee on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015;[15]

14. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to take advantage of the potential of new systems and standards, such as the Umoja enterprise resource planning system and the International Public Sector Accounting Standards, in preparing his budget proposals, with a view to enhancing the quality and accuracy of information provided to Member States;

15. *Stresses* that results-based budgeting and results-based management are mutually supportive management tools and that improved implementation of results-based budgeting enhances both management and accountability in the Secretariat, and encourages the Secretary-General to continue his efforts in this regard;

16. *Reaffirms* paragraph 28 of resolution 55/231, and stresses the importance of adequate training to ensure the full implementation of results-based budgeting;

17. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination as contained in chapter II, section A, of its report;[10]

18. *Also endorses*, subject to the provisions of the present resolution and without establishing a precedent, the recommendations of the Advisory Committee concerning posts and non-post resources as contained in chapter II of its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015;

[15] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 7* (A/68/7).

Part I
Overall policymaking, direction and coordination

Section 1
Overall policymaking, direction and coordination

19. *Takes note* of paragraphs I.11 and I.46 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and approves the establishment of the four posts proposed by the Secretary-General for the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children;

20. *Decides* to defer consideration of the proposal of the Secretary-General to establish a Partnership Facility to the first part of its resumed sixty-eighth session;

21. *Recalls* the letter dated 11 November 2013 from the Secretary-General to the President of the General Assembly[16] and the associated report on operational arrangements and conditions of service of the Advisory Committee,[17] and decides to defer consideration of this matter to its sixty-ninth session;

Section 2
General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management

22. *Decides* to approve one P-2 post in the Office of the President of the General Assembly;

23. *Also decides* to decrease the non-post resources allocated to the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management by 1.45 per cent;

Part II
Political affairs

Section 3
Political affairs

24. *Decides* not to abolish one P-2 post under subprogramme 1 in the Africa II Division;

25. *Takes note* of paragraph II.11 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and decides not to abolish two General Service (Other level) posts under subprogrammes 4, Decolonization, and 5, Question of Palestine;

26. *Also takes note* of paragraph II.14 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and decides not to abolish one General Service (Other level) post in the Office for the United Nations Register of Damage Caused by the Construction of the Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory;

Section 4
Disarmament

27. *Takes note* of paragraph II.34 of the report of the Advisory Committee, recalls its resolution 62/216 of 22 December 2007, and decides not to approve the

[16] A/C.5/68/13, annex.

[17] Ibid., enclosure.

proposed abolishment of one Local level post in the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa;

28. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that adequate support is provided to the group of governmental experts established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/53 of 3 December 2012 on a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, in order to enable the group to meet for two sessions of two weeks in both 2014 and 2015;

Section 5
Peacekeeping operations

29. *Decides* not to abolish one P-3 post under subprogramme 1;

Part III
International justice and law

Section 7
International Court of Justice

30. *Takes note* of paragraph III.6 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and decides to establish one P-2 post in the Office of the President of the International Court of Justice;

31. *Decides* to decrease the non-post resources allocated to the International Court of Justice by 2.35 per cent;

Part IV
International cooperation for development

Section 9
Economic and social affairs

32. *Decides* to establish one P-2 post in support of the implementation of the projects under the Development Account;

Section 12
Trade and development

33. *Decides* to establish one P-3 post of Programme Officer under executive direction and management;

Section 15
Human settlements

34. *Decides* not to abolish one P-2 post of Associate Human Settlements Officer;

Part V
Regional cooperation for development

Section 20
Economic development in Europe

35. *Recalls* paragraph V.51 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and decides not to abolish one P-4 post under subprogramme 4 and one P-3 post under subprogramme 6;

Section 21
Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean

36. *Decides* not to abolish one P-2 post under executive direction and management, one P-2 post under subprogramme 1, one P-2 post and one Local level post under subprogramme 3, one P-2 post under subprogramme 5, one Local level post under subprogramme 7, one Local level post under subprogramme 9, one P-3 post under subprogramme 12, one P-2 post under subprogramme 13 and one P-2 and three Local level posts under programme support;

Section 22
Economic and social development in Western Asia

37. *Decides* not to approve the proposed abolishment of one P-3, one P-2 and seven Local level posts;

Part VI
Human rights and humanitarian affairs

Section 24
Human rights

38. *Takes note* of paragraph VI.8 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and decides not to abolish one P-4 post of Secretary of the Consultative Group under subprogramme 4;

39. *Also takes note* of paragraph VI.9 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and decides not to abolish one P-5 post of Chief, Civil Society Section, in the External Outreach Branch;

40. *Decides* not to abolish one P-3 post in the Development and Economic and Social Issues Branch under subprogramme 1;

Section 26
Palestine refugees

41. *Decides* not to abolish one General Service (Other level) post in the West Bank;

42. *Also decides* to establish two Investigation Officer posts, one P-3 and one P-4, two P-4 Field Legal Officer posts, one each in Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic, and one P-3 Curriculum Expert post in Gaza specialized in the field of human rights;

43. *Recalls* its resolution 65/272 of 18 April 2011, and notes the financial stress under which the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East currently operates, despite the critical work carried out by the Agency in providing vital assistance to Palestine refugees;

Part VII
Public information

Section 28
Public information

44. *Decides* not to abolish two Local level posts, one each at the United Nations information centres in Panama and Ghana;

45. *Also decides* to decrease the non-post resources allocated to the Department of Public Information by 1.45 per cent;

Part X
Jointly financed administrative activities and special expenses

Section 31
Jointly financed administrative activities

46. *Decides* to decrease the non-post resources allocated to jointly financed administrative activities by 1 per cent;

Limited budgetary discretion

47. *Recalls* section I of its resolution 66/258, takes note of the report of the Secretary-General,[8] and endorses the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee.[18]

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[18] A/68/7/Add.9.

Annex

Staffing table for the biennium 2014–2015

Category	*Number of posts*
Professional and higher	
Deputy Secretary-General	1
Under-Secretary-General	33
Assistant Secretary-General	31
D-2	110
D-1	289
P-5	863
P-4/3	2 842
P-2/1	521
Subtotal	**4 690**
General Service and related	
Principal level	273
Other level	2 580
Subtotal	**2 853**
Other	
Security Service	314
Local level	1 963
Field Service	116
National Professional Officer	85
Trades and Crafts	97
Subtotal	**2 575**
Total	**10 118**

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[*on the report of the Fifth Committee (A/68/689)*]

68/247. Special subjects relating to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015

The General Assembly,

I

Conditions of service and compensation for officials, other than Secretariat officials, serving the General Assembly: full-time members of the International Civil Service Commission and the Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

Recalling its resolution 35/221 of 17 December 1980, section VII of its resolution 55/238 of 23 December 2000, its resolution 58/266 of 23 December 2003 and section III of its resolution 65/268 of 4 April 2011,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,[1]

Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General;[1]

II

International Public Sector Accounting Standards

Recalling section IV of its resolution 60/283 of 7 July 2006, section V of its resolution 63/262 of 24 December 2008, its resolution 64/243 of 24 December 2009, its resolution 65/243 A and section II.B of its resolution 65/259 of 24 December 2010, section I of its resolution 66/232 B of 21 June 2012, its resolution 66/246 and sections II and V of its resolution 66/247 of 24 December 2011 and section IV of its resolution 67/246 of 24 December 2012,

Having considered the sixth progress report of the Secretary-General on the adoption of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards by the United Nations,[2] the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the third progress report of

[1] A/68/187.
[2] A/68/351.

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the Board of Auditors on the implementation of the Standards[3] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[4]

1. *Takes note* of the sixth progress report of the Secretary-General on the adoption of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards by the United Nations[2] and the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the third progress report of the Board of Auditors on the implementation of the Standards;[3]

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[4]

3. *Accepts* the third progress report of the Board of Auditors;

4. *Approves* the recommendations of the Board of Auditors contained in its report;

5. *Notes* the progress made since the issuance of the fifth progress report of the Secretary-General on the adoption of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards by the United Nations,[5] and requests the Secretary-General to report on the status of the Standards implementation projects in the Secretariat and across the United Nations system;

6. *Welcomes* the progress made in the implementation of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards by the additional eight entities audited for the year ended 31 December 2012, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to facilitate the dissemination of lessons learned and best practices from this implementation to other entities where the implementation of the Standards remains under way;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General, as the Chair of the Chief Executives Board, to invite the heads of the entities to continue to address underlying challenges related to the implementation of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards, including those relating to inventory;

8. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to enhance the risk assessment and risk management tools, in particular those related to the early warning mechanism, the transitional arrangements related to data, implementation of the Umoja enterprise resource planning project, financial statements that are compliant with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards, accounting for inventory and opening balances for assets and liabilities, and to continue to report on the results achieved in these specific areas of risk;

9. *Further requests* the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of the Chief Executives Board, to monitor continuously the latest International Public Sector Accounting Standards and training best practices and to promote them within the United Nations system entities;

10. *Expresses serious concern* about weaknesses identified by the Board of Auditors in relation to asset management in all entities after the adoption of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards, and in this regard calls for corrective measures in order to appropriately address this recurring issue and thus enhance the quality of data for financial statements that are compliant with the Standards to support the effective decision-making process;

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[3] A/68/161.

[4] A/68/508.

[5] A/67/344.

11. *Urges* the Secretary-General to ensure that accurate opening balances for assets and liabilities are established in the preparation of financial statements that are compliant with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards;

12. *Reaffirms* that the Umoja enterprise resource planning system will serve as the backbone for implementation by the United Nations of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards, and urges increased collaboration between the Standards and Umoja teams;

13. *Expresses concern* that the delays in the implementation of the Umoja enterprise resource planning project pose a significant risk to the timely realization of the benefits of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take additional measures to identify further potential benefits that can be quantified during the transition phase as well as after the full implementation of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards and Umoja and to report thereon in the context of future progress reports;

15. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that the General Assembly is kept informed, on an annual basis, of the progress in implementing the International Public Sector Accounting Standards by 2014, including milestones and deliverables, outstanding activities, utilization of resources and the effectiveness of the activities undertaken by the local Standards implementation teams, as well as to ensure full realization of the benefits associated with the implementation of the Standards;

16. *Recalls* paragraph 14 of section IV of its resolution 67/246, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to review the implications arising from the adoption of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards for the workload of the Advisory Committee, the Fifth Committee and the General Assembly, as well as the comments and observations of the Board of Auditors on this issue, and to report thereon in the context of future progress reports;

17. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to take all measures necessary to ensure that the International Public Sector Accounting Standards project is implemented on time and within the approved budget;

18. *Concurs* with the views expressed by the Board of Auditors in paragraph 27 of its report about the potential for the International Public Sector Accounting Standards to enhance the role and profile of financial management, and in this regard welcomes its intention to assist United Nations entities in making further improvements in this area;

19. *Notes with concern* differences of opinion between the International Public Sector Accounting Standards implementation team and the Board of Auditors on some terms and mechanisms of the Standards, including inventory, required for full project implementation within the United Nations system, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to make additional efforts to come to an agreement as soon as possible on this issue and to report thereon;

III

Construction of additional office facilities at the Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa

Recalling its resolution 56/270 of 27 March 2002, section IV of its resolution 58/272 of 23 December 2003, sections IX and X of its resolution 62/238 of 22 December 2007, section I of its resolution 63/263 of 24 December 2008, its

resolution 64/243, section III of its resolution 65/259, section VII of its resolution 66/247 and section II of its resolution 67/246,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on progress in the construction of additional office facilities at the Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa[6] and the related report of the Advisory Committee,[7]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on progress in the construction of additional office facilities at the Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa;[6]

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee;[7]

3. *Recalls* paragraph 3 of section III of its resolution 65/259, and in this regard regrets the continued delay in the renovation of conference facilities at the Commission, in particular Africa Hall and Conference Room 1;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General, as a matter of priority, to ensure that the renovation of conference facilities at the Commission, in particular Africa Hall and Conference Room 1, is carried out and to report to the General Assembly on the progress at the main part of its sixty-ninth session;

5. *Takes note with appreciation* of the efforts of the Government of Ethiopia, as host country, in facilitating the construction of additional office facilities and the renovation of conference facilities at the Commission;

6. *Re-emphasizes* the importance of guidance, interaction and coordination between the Secretariat in New York, on the one hand, and the Commission in Addis Ababa, on the other, with clear reporting lines;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure full accountability for the delays, the lack of responsiveness of management to the needs of the construction and renovation projects in Addis Ababa and other factors that have contributed to delays in the implementation of the projects and to include information on measures taken to address those issues in his next annual progress report;

8. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to entrust the Office of Internal Oversight Services of the Secretariat with ensuring effective oversight of the implementation of the construction and renovation of the conference facilities and with submitting to the General Assembly information on key findings in the context of its annual reports;

IV

Capital master plan

Recalling its resolutions 54/249 of 23 December 1999, 55/238, 56/234 and 56/236 of 24 December 2001 and 56/286 of 27 June 2002, section II of its resolution 57/292 of 20 December 2002, its resolution 59/295 of 22 June 2005, section II of its resolution 60/248 of 23 December 2005, its resolutions 60/256 of 8 May 2006, 60/282 of 30 June 2006, 61/251 of 22 December 2006, 62/87 of 10 December 2007, 63/270 of 7 April 2009, 64/228 of 22 December 2009 and 65/269 of 4 April 2011, section III of its resolution 66/258 of 9 April 2012 and section V of its resolution 67/246 and its decisions 58/566 of 8 April 2004, 65/543 of 24 December 2010 and 66/555 of 24 December 2011,

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[6] A/68/517.

[7] A/68/643.

Having considered the eleventh annual progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the capital master plan,[8] the report of the Secretary-General on the final expenditure for associated costs for the period from 2008 to 2013,[9] the report of the Board of Auditors on the capital master plan for the year ended 31 December 2012,[10] the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors contained in its report on the capital master plan for the year ended 31 December 2012[11] and the related report of the Advisory Committee,[12]

1. *Takes note* of the eleventh annual progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the capital master plan,[8] the report of the Secretary-General on the final expenditure for associated costs for the period from 2008 to 2013,[9] the report of the Board of Auditors on the capital master plan for the year ended 31 December 2012[10] and the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors contained in its report on the capital master plan for the year ended 31 December 2012;[11]

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee;[12]

3. *Accepts* the report of the Board of Auditors;

4. *Approves* the recommendations of the Board of Auditors contained in its report;

A. Eleventh annual progress report

5. *Reaffirms* paragraph 37 of its resolution 62/87, paragraph 2 of its resolution 64/228 and paragraph 5 of section V of its resolution 67/246;

6. *Also reaffirms* paragraph 28 of its resolution 62/87, and decides that nothing in the present resolution shall be interpreted as a change in the current scope of the capital master plan as decided by the General Assembly, nor should the need for liquidity of the project be linked to the completion of the renovation of the buildings under the current scope;

7. *Recalls* paragraph 50 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at the first part of its resumed sixty-eighth session, the information specified therein;

8. *Acknowledges* the progress made towards the completion of the project, and expresses concern about the continuing uncertainties regarding major aspects of the project, including but not limited to the issues of associated costs, the cost overruns, the cash balance and the situation of the Dag Hammarskjöld Library Building and the South Annex Building, which continue to pose risks to the successful completion of the project;

9. *Approves* the application of the balance of interest income and the working capital reserve funds, as well as the future interest income, in the full

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[8] A/68/352.

[9] A/68/352/Add.1.

[10] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 5*, Vol. V (A/68/5 (Vol. V)).

[11] A/68/336.

[12] A/68/551.

amount of 159.4 million United States dollars to the remaining cash balance for the corresponding remaining requirements of the project;

10. *Decides* that the provisions for the application of credits under regulations 3.2 (*d*), 5.3 and 5.4 of the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations[13] shall be suspended in respect of the working capital reserve and interest income earned on assessments received from Member States for the capital master plan;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the most up-to-date information on a cash flow bridging mechanism to address possible cash flow challenges of the project during the time remaining until its completion;

12. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to interact with the host city as required in this regard with a view to determining available options for resolving the pending security concerns in relation to the Dag Hammarskjöld Library Building and the South Annex Building, to assist the General Assembly in making a final determination on the issue within the context of the capital master plan and to report thereon at the first part of the resumed sixty-eighth session of the Assembly;

13. *Reaffirms* paragraphs 21 and 22 of section V of its resolution 67/246;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report on the current conditions of maintenance of the art, crafts and gifts donated to the United Nations in New York in the context of his next progress report;

15. *Welcomes with appreciation* the donations from Member States that contributed to the renovation of the Conference Building and the Secretariat Building;

16. *Reaffirms* paragraphs 31 and 32 of section V of its resolution 67/246;

17. *Notes* that as at 30 June 2013 an amount of 2.7 million dollars in assessments remained unpaid to the capital master plan for 2011 and prior periods, and urges the Member States concerned to arrange for the disbursement of those contributions expeditiously;

18. *Approves* the extension of the approved commitment authority for 2013 into 2014;

19. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General to enter into additional commitments of up to 15 million dollars for resources required for the capital master plan project through 2014;

B. Associated costs

20. *Recalls* paragraph 44 of section V of its resolution 67/246, and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at the first part of its resumed sixty-eighth session, the final expenditure for associated costs for the period from 2008 to 2013, updates on the projected final cost to completion and the status of contributions;

21. *Urges* the Secretary-General to continue to make every effort to absorb the associated costs within the budget approved for the capital master plan;

[13] ST/SGB/2013/4.

V

Strategic heritage plan of the United Nations Office at Geneva

Recalling part XI of its resolution 64/243 and section VII of its resolution 66/247,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General[14] and the related report of the Advisory Committee,[15]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[14]

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee,[15] subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

3. *Reiterates* that all planned major capital projects and related resource requirements should be included in the strategic capital review to allow for comprehensive analysis and planning by the Organization;

4. *Concurs* with the need to address the health, safety, usability and access needs of the Palais des Nations;

5. *Recalls* its resolution 66/247, and reiterates that the Secretary-General must ensure that major capital expenditure projects are not implemented simultaneously in order to prevent the need to finance and supervise them at the same time;

6. *Reiterates its request* that the renovation phase of the strategic heritage plan not start before the General Assembly has taken a decision on this matter and the capital master plan has been completed;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to reduce the planning phase as far as possible with an aim to start construction work at the earliest opportunity;

8. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, through the Office of Central Support Services of the Department of Management of the Secretariat, to take into account lessons learned and best practices from past construction and renovation projects in implementing the strategic heritage plan, in particular to draw from experience and know-how acquired from large capital projects, including the capital master plan;

9. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to ensure robust internal project control mechanisms in the context of the scope, cost, schedule and quality of the strategic heritage plan;

10. *Reaffirms* the importance of ensuring effective governance and oversight with respect to the implementation of the strategic heritage plan, and requests the Secretary-General to present options in this regard to the General Assembly at the main part of its sixty-ninth session;

11. *Stresses* the importance of oversight with respect to the development and implementation of the strategic heritage plan, and requests the Advisory Committee to request the Board of Auditors to initiate oversight activities and to report annually thereon to the General Assembly;

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[14] A/68/372.

[15] A/68/585.

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the impact of Umoja is taken into consideration in the strategic heritage plan and that progress made thereon is reported to the General Assembly in the context of future progress reports;

13. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to assess the potential for flexible workplace strategies in the context of the strategic heritage plan, subject to a decision by the General Assembly on this matter;

14. *Regrets* that the parking requirements were not part of either the preliminary building survey or the conceptual study;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to study all viable options to ensure sufficient parking spaces so as to meet the existing and future needs of diplomatic missions and Secretariat staff within the projected overall budget of the strategic heritage plan and to report thereon in the context of future progress reports;

16. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly on plans to reuse existing furniture and to reduce new furniture requirements, where possible, in the context of his next report on the strategic heritage plan;

17. *Recalls* paragraph 31 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at the main part of its seventieth session, revised overall cost estimates of the strategic heritage plan taking into account, inter alia, a review of the contingency level, the overall level of consultancy fees and the in-depth technical assessment to be undertaken;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit annual progress reports on the implementation of the strategic heritage plan;

19. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, through the Office of Central Support Services, to update Member States regularly on the progress of this project;

20. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to make every effort to ensure that the work undertaken for the biennium 2012–2013 and to be undertaken for the biennium 2014–2015 will not have to be redone as part of the strategic heritage plan;

21. *Requests* that the term "associated costs" continue to be used in this regard;

22. *Commends* the Secretary-General for including associated cost projections in the total project requirements on the basis of lessons learned from the capital master plan, and requests him to ensure that the proposed requirements for associated costs are based on actual needs and to report thereon no later than at the main part of the seventieth session of the General Assembly;

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that all associated costs related to the strategic heritage plan are presented transparently in the project cost estimates throughout the project cycle of the strategic heritage plan and to ensure that all such costs are fully justified and necessary for the timely completion of the project;

24. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to refine his proposal with regard to the core functions of the strategic heritage plan project team and to report thereon at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly;

25. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to further explore the possibilities of alternative funding mechanisms, inter alia through a donation policy, with the aim of reducing the overall assessment on Member States;

26. *Welcomes with appreciation* the offer of support from the Government of Switzerland to the strategic heritage plan, and acknowledges the efforts of the host country to make the plan possible;

27. *Welcomes* the donations by Member States to the renovation of the Palais des Nations, and requests the Secretary-General to include all voluntary contributions in the total project budget;

28. *Stresses* that the strategic heritage plan should be implemented in compliance with the relevant provisions of the agreements pertaining to the animals living on the land provided for the United Nations Office at Geneva;

29. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General to negotiate with the host country on loan arrangements for both the renovation and the construction portions of the strategic heritage plan, including the possibility of an interest-free loan, and to report to the General Assembly in this regard in the context of his next report on the plan;

30. *Approves* implementation strategy (c), as proposed by the Secretary-General, for planning and design purposes;

31. *Recalls* paragraphs 55 and 58 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and decides to revert to the establishment of the multi-year special account for the strategic heritage plan at the main part of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly;

32. *Requests* the Secretary-General to explore options of using contracted external expertise to ensure the most appropriate staffing levels to support the implementation of the project;

33. *Affirms* that the strategic heritage plan project team will be a time-limited and mission-specific endeavour and that the team should therefore not be a permanent addition to the existing organizational structure;

34. *Approves* resource requirements for the strategic heritage plan for 2014 in the amount of 15,629,900 Swiss francs, or 16,645,200 dollars at preliminary 2014–2015 rates, in respect of which the General Assembly:

(*a*) Decides to approve general temporary assistance in the amount of 1,492,400 dollars under section 33, Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015 to provide for the continuation of the two existing positions (one Engineering Project Manager (P-4) and one Architecture Project Manager (P-4)) and the establishment, in 2014, of the following positions: one Project Director (D-2), one Chief of Design and Construction (D-1), one Chief of Programme Management Support (D-1), one Senior Design Project Manager (P-5), one Senior Programme and Cost Manager (P-5), one Administrative Officer (Finance) (P-4), one Procurement Officer (P-4), one Contracts Management/Legal Officer (P-4), one Mechanical and Engineering Coordinator (P-3) and one Administrative Assistant (General Service (Other level));

(*b*) Decides to approve, under section 33, additional requirements in the amount of 15,152,800 dollars for contractual services, travel and contingencies and escalation;

35. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General to enter into commitments up to the amount of 1,294,200 dollars in 2015, at preliminary 2014–2015 rates;

VI

Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General[16] and the related report of the Advisory Committee,[17]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[16]

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee,[17] subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

3. *Takes note* of paragraphs 15, 23, 25, 31, 60, 70, 125, 165 and 166 of the report of the Advisory Committee;[18]

4. *Recalls* paragraph 12 of the report of the Secretary-General,[19] and urges the Joint Special Representative of the United Nations and the League of Arab States for Syria to continue his efforts towards the successful convening of the second Geneva conference on the Syrian Arab Republic, aimed at achieving the objective of the mission as indicated in the report of the Secretary-General;

5. *Takes note* of paragraph 48 of the report of the Advisory Committee[18] with regard to the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Yemen, and decides to establish one Public Information Officer position (P-4) in that Office, to be located in Sana'a;

6. *Recalls* paragraph 54 of the report of the Advisory Committee,[18] requests the Secretary-General to review the appropriate level of leadership arrangements for the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sahel, taking into account the importance of successful implementation of the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at the second part of its resumed sixty-eighth session, and, pending the review, authorizes the Secretary-General to make the appointment of the Assistant Secretary-General for a term of seven months;

7. *Takes note* of paragraph 60 of the report of the Advisory Committee,[18] and decides to approve the establishment of the following posts: one Chief of Staff (D-1), one Political Affairs Officer (P-3), one Human Resources Assistant (Local level) and one Administrative Assistant (Local level) in Nairobi and one Administrative Assistant (General Service (Other level)) in New York;

8. *Also takes note* of paragraph 100 of the report of the Advisory Committee,[18] and reaffirms its position that any consideration of accommodation for air travel, including exceptions to the standards of accommodation for air travel, should be dealt with under paragraph 17 of section VI of its resolution 67/254 A of 12 April 2013;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the relocation of the office of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate is carried out in the most cost-efficient manner and to report thereon in the context of the second performance

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[16] A/68/327 and Add.1–8 and Add.8/Corr.1.

[17] A/68/7/Add.10 and Corr.1 and Add.17 and 18 and Add.18/Corr.1.

[18] A/68/7/Add.10 and Corr.1.

[19] A/68/327/Add.6.

report of the Secretary-General on the programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015;

10. *Recalls* paragraph 134 of the report of the Advisory Committee,[18] and decides not to abolish the Senior Security Sector Reform Officer position (P-5) and the Police Officer position (P-3) in the Rule of Law and Security Institutions Service of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau;

11. *Also recalls* paragraph 8 of the report of the Advisory Committee,[20] and decides to establish a second Public Information Officer position (P-3) in the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia;

12. *Decides* to establish one Principal Political Affairs Officer position (D-1) (Constitution Adviser) in the United Nations Support Mission in Libya;

13. *Also decides* not to abolish one P-3 position, one National Professional Officer position and one General Service (Local level) position in the United Nations Support Mission in Libya;

14. *Takes note* of paragraph 197 of the report of the Advisory Committee,[18] and decides that the commensurate reduction in resident auditor staffing in Kuwait will be reflected in the budget of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan for 2014;

15. *Decides* not to approve the requirements of 500,000 dollars for quick-impact projects proposed for the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq;

16. *Recalls* paragraph 222 of the report of the Advisory Committee,[18] and requests the Secretary-General to undertake a comprehensive review of staffing requirements of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq, including the organizational structure and the number and level of senior positions, for inclusion in the 2015 budget submission;

17. *Recognizes* the importance of promoting cooperation among United Nations missions in order to increase their effectiveness and efficiency, and requests the Secretary-General to continue his efforts in this regard, without prejudice to the unique mandate and the approved budget for each mission;

18. *Approves* the budgets totalling 596,826,600 dollars for the 36 special political missions authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council, which are presented in the report of the Secretary-General;[16]

19. *Also approves* a charge totalling 596,826,600 dollars net against the provision for special political missions requested in section 3, Political affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015;

VII

Administrative expenses of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund

Recalling section V of its resolution 66/247 and its resolution 67/240 of 24 December 2012,

Having considered the report of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board on the administrative expenses of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund and

[20] A/68/7/Add.17.

amendments to the regulations of the Fund,[21] the report of the Secretary-General on the administrative and financial implications arising from the report of the Board[22] and the related report of the Advisory Committee,[23]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board on the administrative expenses of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund and amendments to the regulations of the Fund[21] and the report of the Secretary-General on the administrative and financial implications arising from the report of the Board;[22]

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee,[23] subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

3. *Accepts* the report of the Board of Auditors on the Fund for the year ended 31 December 2012;[24]

4. *Approves* the recommendations of the Board of Auditors contained in its report, and requests the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board to ensure that all the recommendations of the Board of Auditors are implemented in full and in a timely manner;

5. *Reaffirms* that, in accordance with article 19 of the regulations of the Fund, the Secretary-General serves as fiduciary for the investment of the assets of the Fund and has fiduciary responsibility for deciding upon the investment of the assets of the Fund;

6. *Approves* the amendments to article 1 (*n*) (normal retirement age), article 29 (early retirement benefit) and article 30 (deferred retirement benefit) of the regulations of the Fund, as contained in annex V to the report of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board;

7. *Recognizes* the importance of establishing a full-time representative of the Secretary-General for the investment of the assets of the Fund, and in this regard decides to defer approval of this matter to the first part of the resumed sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in this regard, to prepare, in consultation with the Board, detailed terms of reference for this post outlining, inter alia, key responsibilities, qualifications, appointment criteria, terms and duration of service, level and reporting lines, to be reviewed by the Advisory Committee and presented to the General Assembly at the first part of its resumed sixty-eighth session;

9. *Requests* the Board to continue to take all the measures necessary to address the difficulty of finding suitable candidates;

10. *Decides* to establish 22 additional posts, as set out in the table below:

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[21] A/68/303.

[22] A/C.5/68/2.

[23] A/68/7/Add.3.

[24] A/68/303, annex VIII.

Organizational unit	*Title of post*	*Number of posts*	*Category/level*
Administration			
Programme of work			
Risk Management and Legal Service	Chief of Service	1	D-1
	Team Assistant	1	General Service (Other level)
Financial Services Section	Accountant	1	P-3
Investments			
Executive direction and management	Administrative Assistant to the Representative of the Secretary-General	1	General Service (Other level)
Programme of work			
Investments Section	Director, Private Markets	1	D-1
North American equities portfolio	Investment Officer	2	P-3
Global emerging markets	Investment Officer	1	P-3
Fixed income group	Investment Officer, Foreign Exchange and Cash Management	1	P-4
	Investment Officer, Emerging Market Debts	1	P-4
Real assets	Investment Officer, Real Assets	1	P-3
Alternative assets	Investment Officer, Hedge Funds	1	P-4
	Investment Assistant	1	General Service (Principal level)
Trade execution team	Trade Execution Officer	1	P-3
	Trade Execution Assistant	1	General Service (Principal level)
External management group	External Manager	1	P-4
Risk and Compliance Section	Compliance Officer	1	P-3
Operations Section	Chief Operating Officer	1	D-1
	Accountant	1	P-4
	Finance Officer	1	P-3
	Senior Accounting Assistant	1	General Service (Principal level)
Programme support			
Information Systems Section	Data Security Administrator	1	P-3
	Total	**22**	

11. *Recognizes* the importance of the use of in-house expertise, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to take all measures to ensure that the costs for non-discretionary advisory fees are reduced;

12. *Takes note* of paragraphs 33 and 34 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and in this regard decides to maintain the current structure of the Fund;

13. *Recalls* paragraph 12 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and in this regard requests the Board, in consultation with the Office of Human Resources Management of the Secretariat, to complete its review of the policies governing the recruitment, promotion and retention of the staff of the Fund and to report to the General Assembly, no later than at the main part of its seventieth session, on the outcome of the review and any measures proposed;

14. *Welcomes* the progress made by the Fund in the implementation of the Integrated Pension Administration System, and looks forward to further updates on its implementation in the context of future reports;

15. *Recalls* paragraph 51 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and in this regard requests the Board to establish a mechanism for tracking all withdrawal settlements paid to participants who separate with less than five years of contributory service and to provide this information to the General Assembly in the context of future reports of the Board;

16. *Stresses* the need to avoid any action that would compromise the fiduciary responsibilities and long-term sustainability of the Fund;

17. *Welcomes* the alignment of reporting on the operations and on the investments of the Fund following the implementation of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards;

18. *Approves* the revised estimate of 185,730,600 dollars for the biennium 2012–2013 for the administration of the Fund;

19. *Also approves* expenses, chargeable directly to the Fund, totalling 156,341,800 dollars net for the biennium 2014–2015;

20. *Further approves* the amount of 21,324,700 dollars as the United Nations share of the cost of the administrative expenses of the Fund for the biennium 2014–2015, of which 13,370,600 dollars would represent the share of the regular budget and the balance of 7,954,100 dollars would represent the share of the funds and programmes;

21. *Approves* the reduction of 561,400 dollars in the United Nations share of the cost of the administrative expenses of the central secretariat of the Fund under section 1, Overall policymaking, direction and coordination, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015;

22. *Authorizes* the Board to supplement the voluntary contributions to the Emergency Fund for the biennium 2014–2015 by an amount not to exceed 200,000 dollars;

VIII

Strengthening the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General[25] and the related report of the Advisory Committee,[26]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[25]

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee;[26]

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[25] A/68/506.

[26] A/68/7/Add.8.

IX

Request for a subvention to the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research resulting from the recommendations of the Board of Trustees of the Institute on the programme of work of the Institute for 2014–2015

Having considered the note by the Secretary-General[27] and the related report of the Advisory Committee,[28]

1. *Takes note* of the note by the Secretary-General;[27]

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee;[28]

3. *Approves* the request for a subvention to the Institute of 577,800 dollars (before recosting) for the biennium 2014–2015 from the regular budget of the United Nations, for which the provision has already been included under section 4, Disarmament, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015;

X

International Trade Centre

Having considered the programme budget proposals for the International Trade Centre for the biennium 2014–2015[29] and the related report of the Advisory Committee,[30]

1. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee;[30]

2. *Decides* to approve resources in the amount of 39,913,900 dollars (the United Nations share equivalent to 36,960,271 Swiss francs at the exchange rate of 0.926 Swiss francs to 1 dollar) proposed for the biennium 2014–2015 under section 13, International Trade Centre, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015;

XI

Revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2013

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General[31] and the related report of the Advisory Committee,[32]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[31]

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee;[32]

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[27] A/68/80.

[28] A/68/7/Add.1.

[29] A/68/6 (Sect. 13) and Add.1.

[30] A/68/7/Add.6.

[31] A/68/380.

[32] A/68/7/Add.2.

XII

Revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Human Rights Council at its twenty-second, twenty-third and twenty-fourth sessions

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General[33] and the related report of the Advisory Committee,[34]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[33]

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee,[34] subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

3. *Approves* an additional appropriation in the amount of 4,741,900 dollars (net), including 1,159,200 dollars under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, 3,579,900 dollars under section 24, Human rights, and 2,800 dollars under section 29F, Administration, Geneva, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015, to be charged to the contingency fund, and also approves an amount of 61,400 dollars under section 36, Staff assessment, to be offset by an equivalent amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015;

4. *Also approves* the establishment, as from 1 January 2014, of two posts (P-3) under section 24, Human rights, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015;

XIII

Revised estimates resulting from the entry into force of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on revised estimates relating to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015 resulting from the entry into force of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights[35] and the related report of the Advisory Committee,[36]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[35]

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee;[36]

XIV

Revised estimates relating to the high-level political forum on sustainable development

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on revised estimates resulting from the decisions contained in General Assembly resolution 67/290 of 9 July

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[33] A/68/634.

[34] A/68/7/Add.15.

[35] A/68/385.

[36] A/68/7/Add.5.

2013, entitled "Format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development",[37] and the related report of the Advisory Committee,[38]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[37]

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee;[38]

3. *Decides* to appropriate resources in the amount of 754,600 dollars under section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015, representing a charge against the contingency fund;

XV

Implementation of recommendations related to strengthening information and systems security across the Secretariat

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on progress on the implementation of recommendations related to strengthening information and systems security across the Secretariat[39] and the related report of the Advisory Committee,[40]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[39]

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee;[40]

XVI

Administrative and financial implications of the decisions and recommendations contained in the report of the International Civil Service Commission for 2013

Having considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly[41] and the related report of the Advisory Committee,[42]

1. *Recalls* its resolution 68/253 of 27 December 2013;

2. *Takes note* of the statement submitted by the Secretary-General;[41]

3. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee;[42]

XVII

Gross jointly financed budget of the Joint Inspection Unit

Approves the gross budget for the Joint Inspection Unit for the biennium 2014–2015 in the amount of 14,026,200 dollars;

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[37] A/68/365 and Add.1.

[38] A/68/7/Add.14.

[39] A/68/552.

[40] A/68/7/Add.11.

[41] A/C.5/68/3.

[42] A/68/7/Add.4.

XVIII

Gross jointly financed budget of the International Civil Service Commission

Approves the gross budget for the International Civil Service Commission for the biennium 2014–2015 in the amount of 19,145,500 dollars;

XIX

Gross jointly financed budget of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination

Notes the gross budget for the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for the biennium 2014–2015 in the amount of 5,857,500 dollars;

XX

Gross jointly financed budget of the Department of Safety and Security

Approves the gross jointly financed budget of the Department of Safety and Security of the Secretariat for the biennium 2014–2015 in the amount of 275,551,200 dollars, broken down as follows:

(*a*) Field Security Operations: 245,057,500 dollars;

(*b*) Security and Safety Services at the United Nations Office at Vienna: 30,493,700 dollars;

XXI

Effect of changes in rates of exchange and inflation

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the revised estimates resulting from the effect of changes in rates of exchange and inflation[43] and the related report of the Advisory Committee,[44]

Takes note of the revised estimates arising from recosting owing to changes in the rates of exchange and inflation;

XXII

Contingency fund

Notes that a balance of 22,338,043 dollars remains in the contingency fund.[45]

72nd plenary meeting
27 December 2013

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[43] A/68/659.

[44] A/68/7/Add.24.

[45] See A/C.5/68/SR.25 and 26.

United Nations A/RES/68/248 A–C

General Assembly

Distr.: General
16 January 2014

Sixty-eighth session
Agenda item 134

Resolutions adopted by the General Assembly on 27 December 2013

[*on the report of the Fifth Committee (A/68/689)*]

68/248. Programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015

A

BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE BIENNIUM 2014–2015

The General Assembly

Resolves that, for the biennium 2014–2015:

1. Appropriations totalling 5,530,349,800 United States dollars are hereby approved for the following purposes:

Section		*Amount (United States dollars)*
	Part I. *Overall policymaking, direction and coordination*	
1.	Overall policymaking, direction and coordination	117 599 800
2.	General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management	673 012 400
	Subtotal	**790 612 200**
	Part II. *Political affairs*	
3.	Political affairs	1 197 957 200
4.	Disarmament	24 729 600
5.	Peacekeeping operations	113 454 400
6.	Peaceful uses of outer space	8 160 600
	Subtotal	**1 344 301 800**
	Part III. *International justice and law*	
7.	International Court of Justice	52 344 800
8.	Legal affairs	47 809 200
	Subtotal	**100 154 000**

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Section		*Amount (United States dollars)*
	Part IV. *International cooperation for development*	
9.	Economic and social affairs	163 049 600
10.	Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States	11 579 100
11.	United Nations support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development	17 000 300
12.	Trade and development	147 132 500
13.	International Trade Centre	39 913 900
14.	Environment	34 963 500
15.	Human settlements	23 260 700
16.	International drug control, crime and terrorism prevention and criminal justice	43 883 000
17.	UN-Women	15 328 500
	Subtotal	**496 111 100**
	Part V. *Regional cooperation for development*	
18.	Economic and social development in Africa	151 633 600
19.	Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific	103 764 400
20.	Economic development in Europe	71 706 300
21.	Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean	116 669 900
22.	Economic and social development in Western Asia	70 189 500
23.	Regular programme of technical cooperation	58 449 700
	Subtotal	**572 413 400**
	Part VI. *Human rights and humanitarian affairs*	
24.	Human rights	174 785 600
25.	International protection, durable solutions and assistance to refugees	91 496 800
26.	Palestine refugees	55 227 500
27.	Humanitarian assistance	31 581 400
	Subtotal	**353 091 300**
	Part VII. *Public information*	
28.	Public information	188 443 900
	Subtotal	**188 443 900**
	Part VIII. *Common support services*	
29.	Management and support services	657 782 400
	Subtotal	**657 782 400**
	Part IX. *Internal oversight*	
30.	Internal oversight	40 552 300
	Subtotal	**40 552 300**
	Part X. *Jointly financed administrative activities and special expenses*	
31.	Jointly financed administrative activities	11 357 800
32.	Special expenses	143 660 200
	Subtotal	**155 018 000**

Section		*Amount (United States dollars)*
	Part XI. *Capital expenditures*	
33.	Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance	75 268 700
	Subtotal	**75 268 700**
	Part XII. *Safety and security*	
34.	Safety and security	241 370 100
	Subtotal	**241 370 100**
	Part XIII. *Development Account*	
35.	Development Account	28 398 800
	Subtotal	**28 398 800**
	Part XIV. *Staff assessment*	
36.	Staff assessment	486 831 800
	Subtotal	**486 831 800**
	Total	**5 530 349 800**

2. The Secretary-General shall be authorized to transfer credits between sections of the budget, with the concurrence of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

3. In addition to the appropriations approved under paragraph 1 above, an amount of 75,000 dollars is appropriated for each year of the biennium 2014–2015 from the accumulated income of the Library Endowment Fund for the purchase of books, periodicals, maps and library equipment and for such other expenses of the Library at the Palais des Nations in Geneva as are in accordance with the objects and provisions of the endowment.

72nd plenary meeting
27 December 2013

B

INCOME ESTIMATES FOR THE BIENNIUM 2014–2015

The General Assembly

Resolves that, for the biennium 2014–2015:

1. Estimates of income other than assessments on Member States totalling 523,145,000 United States dollars are approved as follows:

Income section	*Amount (United States dollars)*
1. Income from staff assessment	491 185 600
2. General income	31 228 200
3. Services to the public	731 200
Total	**523 145 000**

2. The income from staff assessment shall be credited to the Tax Equalization Fund in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955;

3. Direct expenses of the United Nations Postal Administration, services to visitors, the sale of statistical products, catering operations and related services, garage operations, television services and the sale of publications not provided for under the budget appropriations shall be charged against the income derived from those activities.

72nd plenary meeting
27 December 2013

C

Financing of appropriations for the year 2014

The General Assembly

Resolves that, for the year 2014:

1. Budget appropriations consisting of 2,765,174,900 United States dollars, being half of the appropriation of 5,530,349,800 dollars approved for the biennium 2014–2015 by the General Assembly in paragraph 1 of resolution A above, plus 169,511,300 dollars, being the net increase in revised appropriations for the biennium 2012–2013 approved by the Assembly in its resolutions 67/269 of 28 June 2013 and 68/245 A of 27 December 2013, shall be financed in accordance with regulations 3.1 and 3.2 of the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations,[1] as follows:

(*a*) 21,174,100 dollars, consisting of 15,979,700 dollars, being half of the estimated income other than staff assessment income approved for the biennium 2014–2015 under resolution B above, plus 5,194,400 dollars, being the increase in income other than staff assessment income for the biennium 2012–2013 approved by the Assembly in its resolution 68/245 B of 27 December 2013;

(*b*) 40,069,800 dollars, consisting of the unencumbered balance for the biennium 2012–2013 of the Special Account for the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994, the Special Account for the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 and the Special Account for the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals, and decides in this regard that the provision for the application of credits under regulations 3.2 (*d*), 5.3 and 5.4 of the Financial Regulations and Rules shall be suspended;

(*c*) 26,648,200 dollars, consisting of a credit to the General Fund from the Special Account established by the Assembly in resolution 3049 A (XXVII) of 19 December 1972;

[1] ST/SGB/2013/4.

(*d*) 23,141,000 dollars, consisting of a credit of the cancellation of prior-period obligations corresponding to the biennium 2010–2011, and decides in this regard that regulations 3.2 (*d*), 5.3 and 5.4 shall be suspended;

(*e*) 2,823,653,100 dollars, being the assessment on Member States in accordance with Assembly resolution 67/238 of 24 December 2012 on the scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations;

2. There shall be set off against the assessment on Member States, in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund in the total amount of 271,692,300 dollars, consisting of:

(*a*) 245,592,800 dollars, being half of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the biennium 2014–2015 in paragraph 1 of resolution B above;

(*b*) 25,915,500 dollars, being the increase in income from staff assessment for the biennium 2012–2013 approved by the Assembly in its resolution 68/245 B;

(*c*) 184,000 dollars, being the increase in income from staff assessment for the biennium 2012–2013 approved by the Assembly in its resolution 67/269.

72nd plenary meeting
27 December 2013

General Assembly

Distr.: General
23 January 2014

Sixty-eighth session
Agenda item 134

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 27 December 2013

[*on the report of the Fifth Committee (A/68/689)*]

68/249. Unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for the biennium 2014–2015

The General Assembly

1. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General, with the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and subject to the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations[1] and the provisions of paragraph 3 below, to enter into commitments in the biennium 2014–2015 to meet unforeseen and extraordinary expenses arising either during or subsequent to the biennium, provided that the concurrence of the Advisory Committee shall not be necessary for:

(*a*) Such commitments not exceeding a total of 8 million United States dollars in any one year of the biennium 2014–2015 as the Secretary-General certifies relate to the maintenance of peace and security;

(*b*) Such commitments as the President of the International Court of Justice certifies relate to expenses occasioned by:

(i) The designation of ad hoc judges (Statute of the International Court of Justice, Article 31), not exceeding a total of 200,000 dollars;

(ii) The calling of witnesses and the appointment of experts (Statute, Article 50) and the appointment of assessors (Statute, Article 30), not exceeding a total of 50,000 dollars;

(iii) The maintenance in office for the completion of cases of judges who have not been re-elected (Statute, Article 13, paragraph 3), not exceeding a total of 40,000 dollars;

[1] ST/SGB/2013/4.

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(iv) The payment of pensions and travel and removal expenses of retiring judges and travel and removal expenses and installation grants of members of the Court (Statute, Article 32, paragraph 7), not exceeding a total of 410,000 dollars;

(v) The work of the Court or its Chambers away from The Hague (Statute, Article 22), not exceeding a total of 25,000 dollars;

(*c*) Such commitments not exceeding a total of 1 million dollars in the biennium 2014–2015 as the Secretary-General certifies are required for security measures pursuant to section XI, paragraph 6, of General Assembly resolution 59/276 of 23 December 2004;

2. *Resolves* that the Secretary-General shall report to the Advisory Committee and to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth and seventieth sessions all commitments made under the provisions of the present resolution, together with the circumstances relating thereto, and shall submit supplementary estimates to the Assembly in respect of such commitments;

3. *Decides* that, for the biennium 2014–2015, if a decision of the Security Council results in the need for the Secretary-General to enter into commitments relating to the maintenance of peace and security in an amount exceeding 10 million dollars in respect of the decision, that matter shall be brought to the General Assembly, or, if the Assembly is suspended or not in session, a resumed or special session of the Assembly shall be convened by the Secretary-General to consider the matter.

72nd plenary meeting
27 December 2013

General Assembly

Distr.: General
23 January 2014

Sixty-eighth session
Agenda item 134

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 27 December 2013

[*on the report of the Fifth Committee (A/68/689)*]

68/250. Working Capital Fund for the biennium 2014–2015

The General Assembly

Resolves that:

1. The Working Capital Fund shall be established for the biennium 2014–2015 in the amount of 150 million United States dollars;

2. Member States shall make advances to the Working Capital Fund in accordance with the scale of assessments adopted by the General Assembly for contributions of Member States to the budget for the year 2014;

3. There shall be set off against this allocation of advances:

(*a*) Credits to Member States resulting from transfers made in 1959 and 1960 from the surplus account to the Working Capital Fund in an adjusted amount of 1,025,092 dollars;

(*b*) Cash advances paid by Member States to the Working Capital Fund for the biennium 2012–2013 in accordance with General Assembly resolution 66/250 of 24 December 2011;

4. Should the credits and advances paid by any Member State to the Working Capital Fund for the biennium 2012–2013 exceed the amount of that Member State's advance under the provisions of paragraph 2 above, the excess shall be set off against the amount of the contributions payable by the Member State in respect of the biennium 2014–2015;

5. The Secretary-General is authorized to advance from the Working Capital Fund:

(*a*) Such sums as may be necessary to finance budgetary appropriations pending the receipt of contributions; sums so advanced shall be reimbursed as soon as receipts from contributions are available for that purpose;

(*b*) Such sums as may be necessary to finance commitments that may be duly authorized under the provisions of the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, in particular resolution 68/249 of 27 December 2013 relating to unforeseen and

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extraordinary expenses for the biennium 2014–2015; the Secretary-General shall make provision in the budget estimates for reimbursing the Working Capital Fund;

(*c*) Such sums as may be necessary to continue the revolving fund to finance miscellaneous self-liquidating purchases and activities, which, together with net sums outstanding for the same purpose, do not exceed 200,000 dollars; advances in excess of 200,000 dollars may be made with the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

(*d*) With the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee, such sums as may be required to finance payments of advance insurance premiums where the period of insurance extends beyond the end of the biennium in which payment is made; the Secretary-General shall make provision in the budget estimates of each biennium, during the life of the related policies, to cover the charges applicable to each biennium;

(*e*) Such sums as may be necessary to enable the Tax Equalization Fund to meet current commitments pending the accumulation of credits; such advances shall be repaid as soon as credits are available in the Tax Equalization Fund;

6. Should the provision in paragraph 1 above prove inadequate to meet the purposes normally related to the Working Capital Fund, the Secretary-General is authorized to utilize, in the biennium 2014–2015, cash from special funds and accounts in his custody, under the conditions approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 1341 (XIII) of 13 December 1958, or the proceeds of loans authorized by the Assembly.

72nd plenary meeting
27 December 2013

United Nations A/RES/68/251

General Assembly

Distr.: General
15 January 2014

Sixty-eighth session
Agenda item 137

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 27 December 2013

[*on the report of the Fifth Committee (A/68/673)*]

68/251. Pattern of conferences

The General Assembly,

Recalling its relevant resolutions, including resolutions 40/243 of 18 December 1985, 41/213 of 19 December 1986, 43/222 A to E of 21 December 1988, 51/211 A to E of 18 December 1996, 52/214 of 22 December 1997, 53/208 A to E of 18 December 1998, 54/248 of 23 December 1999, 55/222 of 23 December 2000, 56/242 of 24 December 2001, 56/254 D of 27 March 2002, 56/262 of 15 February 2002, 56/287 of 27 June 2002, 57/283 A of 20 December 2002, 57/283 B of 15 April 2003, 58/250 of 23 December 2003, 59/265 of 23 December 2004, 60/236 A of 23 December 2005, 60/[illegible] of 8 May 2006, 61/236 of 22 December 2006, 62/225 of 22 December 2007, [illegible]/248 of 24 December 2008, 63/284 of 30 June 2009, 64/230 of 22 December 2009, 65/245 of 24 December 2010, 66/233 of 24 December 2011 and 67/237 of 24 December 2012,

Reaffirming its resolution 42/207 C of 11 December 1987, in which it requested the Secretary-General to ensure the equal treatment of the official languages of the United Nations,

Having considered the report of the Committee on Conferences for 2013[1] and the relevant reports of the Secretary-General,[2]

Having also considered the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[3]

Reaffirming the provisions relating to conference services in its resolutions on multilingualism, in particular resolution 67/292 of 24 July 2013,

Reaffirming also the role of the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly in administrative and budgetary matters,

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 32* (A/68/32).
[2] A/68/122 and A/68/123.
[3] A/68/567.

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Recalling its resolution 14 (I) of 13 February 1946 and the role of the Advisory Committee as a subsidiary body of the General Assembly,

I

Calendar of conferences and meetings

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Committee on Conferences for 2013;[1]

2. *Approves* the draft calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations for 2014 and 2015, as submitted by the Committee on Conferences,[4] taking into account the observations of the Committee and subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

3. *Authorizes* the Committee on Conferences to make any adjustments to the calendar of conferences and meetings for 2014 and 2015 that may become necessary as a result of actions and decisions taken by the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session;

4. *Notes with satisfaction* that the Secretariat has taken into account the arrangements referred to in General Assembly resolutions 53/208 A, 54/248, 55/222, 56/242, 57/283 B, 58/250, 59/265, 60/236 A, 61/236, 62/225, 63/248, 64/230, 65/245, 66/233 and 67/237 concerning Orthodox Good Friday and the official holidays of Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha, and requests all intergovernmental bodies to observe those decisions when planning their meetings;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that any modification to the calendar of conferences and meetings is implemented strictly in accordance with the mandate of the Committee on Conferences and other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

6. *Invites* Member States to include in new legislative mandates adequate information on the modalities for the organization of conferences or meetings;

7. *Recalls* rule 153 of its rules of procedure, and, for resolutions involving expenditure, requests the Secretary-General to include the modalities of conferences, taking into account the trends of similar meetings, with a view to mobilizing conference services and documentation in the most efficient and cost-effective manner possible;

8. *Reaffirms* the need to address the issue of duplications and redundancies in conference servicing, and notes in this regard that the Economic and Social Council decided in its resolution 2013/13 of 22 July 2013 to consider at a later date the necessity of reviewing its provisional biennial calendar of conferences and meetings in the light of the ongoing intergovernmental consultations on the further strengthening of the Council;

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[4] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 32* (A/68/32), annex II.

II

A. Utilization of conference-servicing resources

9. *Reaffirms* the practice that, in the use of conference rooms, priority must be given to meetings of Member States;

10. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General and Member States to adhere to the guidelines and procedures contained in the administrative instruction for the authorization of the use of United Nations premises for meetings, conferences, special events and exhibits;[5]

11. *Emphasizes* that such meetings, conferences, special events and exhibits must be consistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations;

12. *Notes* that the overall utilization factor at the four main duty stations in 2012 was 84 per cent, and that in 2011 it was 85 per cent, as in 2010, which is above the established benchmark of 80 per cent;

13. *Welcomes* the steps taken by those bodies that have adjusted their programmes of work in order to achieve the optimum utilization of conference-servicing resources, and requests the Committee on Conferences to intensify consultations with the secretariats and bureaux of bodies that underutilize their conference-servicing resources;

14. *Urges* those intergovernmental bodies whose average utilization factor has for the past 10 years been below the benchmark of 80 per cent to take that factor into account when planning their future sessions in order to achieve that benchmark;

15. *Recognizes* that late starts and unplanned early endings seriously affect the utilization factor of the bodies owing to the amount of time lost, and invites the secretariats and bureaux of bodies to pay adequate attention to avoiding late starts and unplanned early endings;

16. *Notes* that the percentage of meetings held by the bodies entitled to meet "as required" that were provided with interpretation services in New York in 2012 was 97 per cent, and that in 2011 it was 96 per cent, as compared with 94 per cent in 2010, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to impress upon such bodies the need to continue to improve the utilization of the conference services provided and to report on the provision of conference services to those bodies through the Committee on Conferences;

17. *Reiterates its request* to intergovernmental bodies to review their meeting entitlements and to plan and adjust their programmes of work on the basis of their actual utilization of conference-servicing resources in order to improve their efficient use of conference services;

18. *Recognizes* the importance of meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States for the smooth functioning of the sessions of intergovernmental bodies, requests the Secretary-General to ensure that, as far as possible, all requests for conference services for the meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States are met, and requests the Secretariat to inform the requesters as early as possible about the availability of conference services, including interpretation, as well as about any changes that might occur before the holding of meetings;

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[5] ST/AI/416.

19. *Notes* that the percentage of meetings held by regional and other major groupings of Member States that were provided with interpretation services at the four main duty stations was 95 per cent in 2012, as compared with 91 per cent in 2011, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to employ innovative means to address the difficulties experienced by Member States owing to the lack of conference services for some meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States and to report thereon to the General Assembly through the Committee on Conferences;

20. *Once again urges* intergovernmental bodies to spare no effort at the planning stage to take into account the meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States, to make provision for such meetings in their programmes of work and to notify conference services, well in advance, of any cancellations so that unutilized conference-servicing resources may, to the extent possible, be reassigned to meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States;

21. *Welcomes* the efforts of all users of conference services to inform the Secretariat as early as possible of any cancellation of service requests so as to allow for such services to be smoothly redeployed to other meetings;

22. *Notes with satisfaction* that, in accordance with several resolutions of the General Assembly, including resolution 67/237, section II.A, paragraph 13, in conformity with the headquarters rule, all meetings of Nairobi-based United Nations bodies were held in Nairobi in 2012, and requests the Secretary-General to report thereon to the Assembly at its sixty-ninth session through the Committee on Conferences;

23. *Notes with concern* the recurring underutilization of the conference centre of the Economic Commission for Africa, specifically given the ongoing renovation of its facilities, recognizes the continuing promotional efforts and initiatives of the Commission, and requests the Secretary-General to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session through the Committee on Conferences;

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to explore additional means to increase the utilization of the conference centre of the Economic Commission for Africa, including with its partners such as the African Union, and to report thereon, including on the impact of the initiatives of the Commission, to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session;

25. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to encourage the heads of entities of the United Nations system to use as a matter of priority, when applicable, the conference centre of the Economic Commission for Africa to ensure greater utilization of the conference facilities;

26. *Recalls* section II.A, paragraph 17, of its resolution 67/237, reiterates its request that the Secretary-General formulate a competitive pricing structure and an appropriate marketing strategy for the conference centre of the Economic Commission for Africa, and requests the Secretary-General to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session;

27. *Recognizes* the proactive efforts of the Secretary-General to identify ways to enhance efficiency and effectiveness in conference services;

28. *Requests* the Secretary-General to propose, at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, a comprehensive review of conference servicing,

highlighting any duplication or redundancy, with a view to identifying innovative ideas, potential synergies and other cost-saving measures, without compromising the quality of the services;

29. *Reiterates its request* to the Committee on Conferences that it consult those bodies that have consistently utilized less than the applicable benchmark of their allocated resources for the past three years, with a view to making appropriate recommendations in order to achieve the optimum utilization of conference-servicing resources, and urges the secretariats and bureaux of bodies that underutilize their conference-servicing resources to work more closely with the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management of the Secretariat and to consider changes to their programmes of work, as appropriate, including adjustments based on previous patterns of recurring agenda items, with a view to making improvements in their utilization factors;

30. *Requests* the Chair of the Committee on Conferences to address a letter to the presiding officers of intergovernmental bodies based at duty stations other than New York if their utilization factor falls below the benchmark of 80 per cent;

B. Impact of the capital master plan, strategy IV (phased approach), on meetings held at Headquarters during its implementation

31. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the implementation of the capital master plan, including the reassignment of conference-servicing staff to swing spaces, will not compromise the quality of conference services provided to Member States in the six official languages and the equal treatment of the language services, which should be provided with equally favourable working conditions and resources, with a view to receiving the maximum quality of services;

32. *Requests* all meeting requesters and organizers to liaise closely with the Department on all matters relating to the scheduling of meetings to allow maximum predictability in coordinating activities at Headquarters during the construction period;

33. *Requests* the Committee on Conferences to keep the matter under constant review, and requests the Secretary-General to report regularly to the Committee on matters pertaining to the calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations during the construction period;

34. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide adequate information technology support for conference services, within the existing resources of the Department, in order to ensure their seamless operation throughout the implementation of the capital master plan;

35. *Notes* that, for the duration of the implementation of the capital master plan, a part of the conference-servicing staff and information technology resources of the Department has been temporarily relocated to swing spaces, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to provide adequate support, within the existing resources of the Department, to ensure continued maintenance of the information technology facilities of the Department, implementation of the global information technology initiative and delivery of high-quality conference services;

36. *Requests* the Secretary-General to consult Member States on initiatives that affect the utilization of conference services and conference facilities;

III

Integrated global management

37. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts of the Secretary-General in the context of the integrated global management initiative to establish and implement in the four main duty stations common performance indicators and single information technology systems (such as gData, gMeets, gDoc and gText), and requests the Secretary-General to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session;

38. *Reiterates with concern its request* that the Secretary-General complete the internal reviews concerning accountability mechanisms and the clear delineation of responsibility between the Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management and the Directors General of the United Nations Offices at Geneva, Nairobi and Vienna for conference management policies, operations and resource utilization, requests the Secretary-General to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session, and in this regard recalls section III, paragraph 15, of its resolution 66/233 and section III, paragraph 2, of its resolution 67/237;

39. *Notes* the initiatives undertaken in the context of integrated global management aimed at streamlining procedures, achieving economies of scale and improving the quality of conference services, and in this regard stresses the importance of ensuring the equal treatment of conference-servicing staff, as well as the principle of equal grade for equal work at the four main duty stations;

40. *Also notes* that the effects of workload-sharing in the context of global document management remain minimal, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to seek ways to promote workload-sharing among the four main duty stations and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session;

41. *Emphasizes* that the major goals of the Department are to provide high-quality documents in a timely manner in all official languages, in accordance with established regulations, as well as high-quality conference services to Member States at all duty stations, and to achieve those aims as efficiently and cost-effectively as possible, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

42. *Notes* that the pool of language professionals at duty stations is uneven in terms of language combinations, and requests the Secretary-General to develop recruitment, subcontracting and outreach policies that take full account of these imbalances and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session;

43. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that all language services are given equal treatment and are provided with equally favourable working conditions and resources, with a view to achieving the maximum quality of services, with full respect for the specificities of the six official languages and taking into account their respective workloads;

44. *Reiterates* the need for the Secretary-General to ensure the compatibility of technologies used in all duty stations and to ensure that they are user-friendly in all official languages;

45. *Also reiterates* that the satisfaction of Member States is a key performance indicator in conference management and conference services;

46. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that measures taken by the Department to seek the evaluation by Member States of the quality of the conference services provided to them, as a key performance indicator of the Department, provide equal opportunities to Member States to present their evaluations in the six official languages of the United Nations and are in full compliance with relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and requests the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly, through the Committee on Conferences, on progress made in this regard;

47. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to explore best practices and techniques in client satisfaction evaluations and to report regularly to the General Assembly on the results achieved;

48. *Welcomes* the efforts made by the Department to seek the evaluation by Member States of the quality of the conference services provided to them, taking into consideration comments and complaints raised by Member States either in writing or during meetings, and requests the Secretary-General to intensify his exploration of innovative ways to systematically capture and analyse feedback from Member States and Chairs and Secretaries of committees on the quality of conference services and to report thereon to the General Assembly through the Committee on Conferences;

49. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to seek evaluation by Member States of the quality of the conference services provided to them, including through the language-specific informational meetings held once a year, ahead of the substantive session of the Committee on Conferences, or any necessary meeting scheduled upon the request of Member States, not to exceed two meetings per year, and to ensure that such measures provide equal opportunities to Member States to present their evaluations in the six official languages of the United Nations and that they are in full compliance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

50. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to keep the General Assembly and its Committee on Conferences apprised of progress made in achieving integrated global management and to provide accurate and up-to-date information on new initiatives falling under the purview of the Committee;

51. *Reiterates its concern* that the Secretary-General did not include in his report on the pattern of conferences[2] information about the financial savings achieved through the implementation of the integrated global management projects, as requested in section III, paragraph 4, of its resolution 63/248, in section III, paragraph 12, of its resolution 64/230, in section III, paragraph 14, of its resolution 65/245, in section III, paragraph 14, of its resolution 66/233, and in section III, paragraph 15, of its resolution 67/237, and reiterates its request that the Secretary-General redouble his efforts to include this information in his next report on the pattern of conferences;

52. *Notes* the Flextime pilot project initiated by the United Nations Office at Vienna, stresses that the rules and regulations of the United Nations governing human resources issues should be applied uniformly during the implementation of the pilot project, and requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session on the evaluation of the pilot project, including a recommendation on whether the project should be continued at the United Nations Office at Vienna and further implemented at other duty stations;

53. *Welcomes* the proximity rule as an efficient approach, where feasible, to servicing meetings away from duty stations, and in this regard requests the

Secretary-General to strengthen his efforts to realize further savings by rigorously applying the proximity rule to applicable meetings without jeopardizing the quality of services and to report thereon to the Committee on Conferences at its substantive session in 2014;

IV

Matters related to documentation and publications

54. *Emphasizes* the paramount importance of the equality of the six official languages of the United Nations;

55. *Reaffirms* its decision in section IV of its resolution 64/230 that all reports adopted by the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review of the Human Rights Council shall be issued as documents in all official languages of the United Nations in a timely manner before their consideration by the Council, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 36/117 A of 10 December 1981, 51/211 A to E, 52/214, 53/208 A to E and 59/265, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure the support necessary to that effect and to report to the General Assembly thereon at its sixty-ninth session;

56. *Recalls* section III, paragraph 5, of its resolution 55/222, and reiterates with concern its request that the Secretary-General ensure strict respect for the rules concerning the simultaneous distribution of documents in all six official languages as regards both the distribution of printed copies and the posting of parliamentary documentation on the Official Document System and the United Nations website;

57. *Stresses* that matters related to conference management, including documentation, fall within the purview of the Fifth Committee;

58. *Reiterates* the importance of the timely issuance of documents for the Fifth Committee;

59. *Acknowledges* that a multipronged approach is required to find a solution to the perennial difficulties related to the late issuance of documents for the Fifth Committee;

60. *Notes with concern* the perennial difficulties related to the late issuance of documents for the Fifth Committee, and urges the Secretary-General to ensure the timely presentation of these official documents to the Committee and to find a lasting and sustainable solution to the problem so as to guarantee the quality of the intergovernmental process;

61. *Takes note* of the work done by the interdepartmental task force on documentation chaired by the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management in positively addressing the problem of issuance of documents for the Fifth Committee;

62. *Encourages* the Chairs of the Fifth Committee and the Advisory Committee to continue to promote cooperation between the two bodies in the sphere of documentation;

63. *Welcomes* the continued efforts of the task force to shepherd the submission of documents by the author departments of the Secretariat;

64. *Notes* that accurate, timely and consistent information provided by the Secretariat to the Fifth Committee during its informal consultations facilitates the decision-making process in the Committee;

65. *Notes with satisfaction* that all documents submitted on time and within the word limit were processed by the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management within four weeks, and encourages the Secretary-General to sustain that level of performance;

66. *Reaffirms* its decision in section III, paragraph 9, of its resolution 59/265 that the issuance of documents in all six official languages on planning, budgetary and administrative matters requiring urgent consideration by the General Assembly shall be accorded priority;

67. *Reiterates its request* that the Secretary-General direct all departments of the Secretariat to include the following elements in their reports:

(*a*) A summary of the report;

(*b*) Consolidated conclusions, recommendations and other proposed actions;

(*c*) Relevant background information;

68. *Also reiterates its request* that all documents submitted to legislative organs, including the Committee on Conferences, by the Secretariat and intergovernmental and expert bodies for consideration and action have conclusions and recommendations in bold print;

69. *Notes with concern* that only 60 per cent of the author departments reached the compliance rate of 90 per cent in the timely submission of their reports to the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, and reiterates its request that the Secretary-General enforce the slotting system more rigorously through a dedicated focus, such as the interdepartmental task force on documentation, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session;

70. *Urges* author departments to fully adhere to deadlines in meeting the goal of 90 per cent submission compliance, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure that documents submitted late do not adversely affect the issuance of documents submitted on time and in compliance with set guidelines;

71. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session on concrete measures taken by author departments and the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management to improve the predictability of document delivery and ensure accountability for the meeting of deadlines in order to ensure the timely issuance of documentation;

72. *Reiterates its request* in section IV, paragraph 17, of its resolution 67/237 that the Secretary-General provide information on the waiver process for documents that are submitted over the word limit;

73. *Welcomes* the interactions between the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management and the author departments on waiver management, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure continuous efforts in this regard and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session;

74. *Emphasizes* the role of Member States and their intergovernmental bodies in determining the policies on conference management;

75. *Stresses* that proposals to change such policies are to be approved by Member States in their relevant intergovernmental bodies;

76. *Notes* that the Official Document System is the official digital repository of the United Nations;

77. *Requests* the Secretary-General to complete the task of uploading all important older United Nations documents onto the United Nations website in all six official languages on a priority basis so that these archives will also be available to Member States through that medium;

78. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session on a detailed time frame for the digitization of all important older United Nations documents, including parliamentary documents, and on options for expediting this process within existing resources;

79. *Recalls* the pilot project undertaken by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at the United Nations Office at Vienna to make a transition to digital recordings of meetings in the six official languages of the Organization as a cost-saving measure;

80. *Emphasizes* that the further expansion of this measure would require consideration, including of its legal, financial and human resources implications, by the General Assembly and full compliance with the relevant resolutions of the Assembly, and requests that the Secretary-General report thereon and on the evaluation of the pilot project referred to in paragraph 79 above to the Assembly at its sixty-ninth session;

81. *Recalls* paragraph 5 of its resolution 49/221 B of 23 December 1994, and stresses that the timely issuance of verbatim records constitutes an important part of the services provided to Member States;

V

Matters related to translation and interpretation

82. *Requests* the Secretary-General to redouble his efforts to ensure the highest quality of interpretation and translation services in all six official languages;

83. *Underlines* that the translation of official documents of the Organization must be provided in all required languages and in due time, in full compliance with the rules of procedure of the respective legislative bodies;

84. *Reiterates its request* that the Secretary-General ensure that the terminology used in the translation and interpretation services reflects the latest linguistic norms and terminology of the official languages in order to ensure the highest quality, and in this regard welcomes the development, within existing resources, of a global terminology portal that will be equally accessible to United Nations staff, Member States and civil society;

85. *Reaffirms* section V, paragraph 3, of its resolution 67/237, and reiterates its request that the Secretary-General, when recruiting temporary assistance in the language services, including through the use of international or local contracts, as appropriate, ensure that all language services are given equal treatment and are provided with equally favourable working conditions and resources, with a view to achieving maximum quality of their services, with full respect for the specificities of each of the six official languages and taking into account their respective workloads;

86. *Reiterates its request* that the Secretary-General consider further measures aimed at decreasing the vacancy rates at the United Nations Office at Nairobi, and requests the Secretary-General to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session;

87. *Requests* the Secretary-General to hold competitive examinations for the recruitment of language staff sufficiently in advance in order to fill current and future vacancies in the language services in a timely manner and to inform the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session of efforts in this regard;

88. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to improve the quality of translation of documents into the six official languages, giving particular significance to the accuracy of translation;

89. *Reiterates* paragraph 8 of the annex to resolution 2 (I) of 1 February 1946 on the rules of procedure concerning languages, whereby all resolutions and other important documents shall be made available in the official languages and, upon the request of any representative, any other document shall be made available in any or all of the official languages;

90. *Stresses* the need to ensure the highest possible quality of contractual and in-house translation, and requests the Secretary-General to report on measures to be taken in this regard;

91. *Reiterates its request* that the Secretary-General provide, at all duty stations, adequate staff at the appropriate level, with a view to ensuring appropriate quality control for external translation, with due consideration of the principle of equal grade for equal work;

92. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session on the experience, lessons learned and best practices of the main duty stations in performing quality control of contractual and in-house translations, including on requirements relating to the number and appropriate level of staff needed to carry out this function;

93. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to establish globally standardized performance indicators and costing models aimed at a more cost-effective strategy for the in-house processing of documents, and requests the Secretary-General to submit such information to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session;

94. *Notes with appreciation* the measures taken by the Secretary-General, in accordance with its resolutions, to address, among other things, the issue of the replacement of retiring staff in the language services, and requests the Secretary-General to maintain and intensify those efforts, including the strengthening of cooperation with institutions that train language specialists, in order to meet the needs in the six official languages of the United Nations;

95. *Notes* the need for energetic measures to avoid a disruptive shortage of applicants and a high turnover rate in the language career fields, particularly where rare language combinations are involved, and requests the Secretary-General to use the appropriate means to improve the internship programme, including through partnerships with organizations that promote the official languages of the United Nations;

96. *Also notes*, in this regard, that recent efforts have led to the signing of memorandums of understanding and collaboration agreements with two universities in Africa and that a memorandum of understanding has been signed with a Latin American institution;

97. *Welcomes* the existing memorandums of understanding between the Organization and 22 universities as a way to strengthen the training of language professionals in order to improve the recruitment of qualified language staff, and requests the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to assess the appropriate

number of memorandums of understanding in order to fulfil the needs of the Organization;

98. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make further concerted efforts to promote outreach programmes, such as traineeships and internships, and to introduce innovative methods to increase awareness of the programmes, including through partnerships with Member States, relevant international organizations and language institutions in all regions, in particular to close the wide gap in Africa and Latin America, and to report to the General Assembly thereon at its sixty-ninth session;

99. *Notes* that the "African project" has the aim of establishing postgraduate university programmes in translation, conference interpreting and public service interpreting through centres of excellence on the African continent, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to report on the achievements of this project;

100. *Requests* the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, in cooperation with the Office of Human Resources Management, to continue to increase its efforts to raise awareness among all Member States about opportunities for employment and internships in the language services at the four main duty stations;

101. *Notes with appreciation* the positive experience with traineeships at Headquarters and at the United Nations Office at Vienna in training young professionals in and attracting them to the translation and interpretation services of the United Nations, while enhancing the pool of qualified language professionals in language combinations that are critical for succession-planning purposes, and requests the Secretary-General to develop the initiative further, to extend it to all duty stations and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session;

102. *Notes* that the lists of individuals and entities subject to sanctions, according to the sanctions committees of the Security Council, have not yet been translated into all six official languages, reiterates its recommendation that the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions of the Security Council look further into the practices related to the issuance of these lists, including their translation, and requests the Secretary-General to report thereon at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly;

103. *Requests* the Secretary-General to refrain from making any change of a substantive nature to agreed texts of both draft and adopted resolutions and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session, including on measures to enhance the quality, efficiency and cost-effectiveness of editing services within existing resources.

72nd plenary meeting
27 December 2013